

# All Hands HERALD

July 2007

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STOW, MASSACHUSETTS

## SINGLE FAMILY HOME...



*...saved by a single sprinkler!*



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## About the *All Hands Herald*

**T**he *All Hands Herald* is published quarterly by the Department of Fire Services in January, April, July and October. The newsletter is meant to incorporate the traditional fire service meaning- all hands working to extinguish the fire. In the case of our newsletter, all hands includes the DFS staff providing each of you with information, training and assistance in dealing with the fire service issues which confront all levels of the fire service.

We hope that you enjoy our new look and feel and we encourage you to let us know how you like the *All Hands Herald* and what we can do to make it even more useful to you – our dedicated fire service members and customers. If you have suggestions, ideas, questions or want to make a contribution to the *All Hands Herald*, contact Jennifer Mieth at 978-567- 3381 or Donna Nelson at 978-567-3149. [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) or [Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Nelson@dfs.state.ma.us)

Sue Peltier and Barry Hyvarinen are the talented contributing photographers; Judy O'Brien is the keen-eyed copy editor; and Jeff Harris is the graphic artist who pulls it all together. ♦





## From the Fire Marshal



Photo by: Barry Hyvärinen

**T**his summer starts with a number of new beginnings here at the Department of Fire Services (DFS), with some old familiar faces in new places.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Lt. Francis E. Hart as the new Commander of the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit effective Sunday, May 13, 2007. Many may remember Lt. Hart from his previous assignments as trooper and sergeant on the Fire Investigation Unit's West Team. We are extremely pleased to have him back as the replacement for Det. Lt. Martin Foley who recently retired to take a position in private business.

Ed Walker returned to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy as its Director on June 25. He has been the Weston fire chief since 2002 and a member of the department since 1984. Chief Walker previously worked at the academy as an instructor and as a program coordinator before becoming fire chief, so he is very familiar with the academy and the Department of Fire Services as a whole.

In addition, we have added two strong staff members to our Human

Resources Office. Maribel Fournier is our new director of Human Resources and comes to us from the City of Leominster where she was the Director of Human Resources. She has 13 years experience in the field. Yolanda Rosario is our new Human Resources and Payroll Supervisor and previously worked for the Executive Office of Public Safety as a Human Resources Coordinator. Together they have brought new leadership and energy to the unit and we are very pleased to have them both on board.

In late May infrastructure construction for the DFS building project finally started after years of planning. While we wish it were less of an inconvenience to our staff, students, guests and neighbors, we are excited to see construction actually begin.

This spring two important grant programs were brought back to life by the Patrick-Murray administration: the *Firefighter Safety and Equipment Grants* and the *Student Awareness of Fire Education* or *S.A.F.E. Program* grants. The funds were applied for, awarded and distributed to local fire departments before the clock ran out on the fiscal year thanks to a lot of hard work by DFS and EOPS programs division staff.

### **Mass. Last Stop for National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's Whistlestop Tour**

The National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation concluded its nationwide 20-city Whistle-Stop Tour in Framingham, Massachusetts on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The goal of the tour was to promote fire safety and education, to highlight the key message of "Everyone Goes Home™", a series of firefighter safety initiatives and to reduce firefighter deaths by

## Sudbury Waterline Construction Starts!

By Donna Nelson

**C**onstruction on the waterline from Sudbury to the Department of Fire Services (DFS) property began the week of May 21, 2007. The construction of this waterline, which will connect DFS headquarters to the Sudbury Water District for potable water (drinking water) is a critical first step in the beginning of construction of DFS' expanded facility.

Crews from C.J. Mabardy Construction were on-site on May 21 preparing the buffer zone to protect environmentally sensitive areas along State Road and Hudson Road on the Sudbury and Stow borders. This preparation work must be performed before the waterline construction begins.

Construction is currently scheduled from May 21 through August 3, 2007 with additional landscaping work to take place in September 2007. The hours of construction are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, paving work is scheduled and will be begin as early as 4 a.m. in order to minimize traffic congestion. This work is scheduled to conclude by 4:00 p.m. but may run longer.

The majority of the construction will take place within the roadway, due to numerous obstructions and environmentally sensitive areas along the shoulder of State Road and Hudson Road. Unfortunately, this will result in traffic delays during the construction period.

The construction work will include not only the laying down of waterline piping from Sudbury to DFS property but also clearing existing culverts and installing new ones. A staging area for materials and equipment has been set up on the DFS property abutting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Refuge entrance area.

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## Marshal

Continued from Page 1

50% over the next 10 years. This major event was open to the public and involved a fire safety fair with educational displays and training demonstrations. In some ways it is fitting that this tour ended here in Massachusetts – where in 1999 we lost six brave firefighters in the abandoned Cold Storage Warehouse fire. That tragedy underscored for us here in Massachusetts, the importance of firefighter safety. It was a hard loss for us when so many did not go home. One of the important aspects of this project is its emphasis on sprinklers and public fire safety: reducing fires is a great way of reducing the risk to firefighters.

### 2006 Record Low Fire Deaths Jump Abruptly in Early 2007

In 2006 Massachusetts experienced an all-time record low number of civilian fire deaths – 44. That came on the heels of the two previous years also experiencing record low fire deaths: 52 in both 2004 and 2005. That makes the 34 deaths in the first half of 2007 all the more alarming. While the fire service gets the public's attention on fire safety during Fire Prevention Week in October – we need to encourage people to practice fire safety every day of the year. Working smoke alarms can double the chances of surviving a fire. Twice a year we remind people to change the batteries in their smoke alarms. Not everyone does. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is 'Practice Your Escape Plan' because although many people make one, they rarely hold fire drills at home to practice it. Practice turns knowledge into action and can save a life. I encourage the fire service and all the citizens of Massachusetts to participate in the nationwide fire drill this year and practice their home escape plans. I know I will be practicing mine. ♦

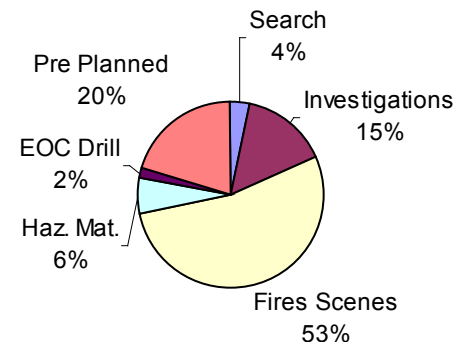
## What is Special Operations?

Since its creation in 1999, the Massachusetts' Department of Fire Services, Special Operations has provided the local command structure with specialized resources helpful to coordinate the response of multiple agencies to significant events within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This is accomplished with an emphasis on local control and high regard for customer service. The first team response was in fiscal year 2001 and to-date the teams have been activated nearly 300 times. Approximately 78% of these were for immediate response and the balance for pre-planned large-scale events. The majority of the activations are from 20:00 hours to 02:00 hours and have lasted anywhere from three hours to operating 24-hours a day for eight consecutive days. Some of the most recent activations have been to support the Danvers Fire Department at the building explosion and multi-alarm fire, the Spencer Fire Department at the mass casualty incident when the water was contaminated, the town of Rochester at a large structure fire, as well as several spring brush fires.

The *Special Ops* vehicles are available to support any major incident, including fires, searches for missing persons, man-made and natural disasters, large-scale public events, multiple fatality, fire investigations, extended duration events, as well as incidents where multiple agencies are operating. In addition, these units can be used for non-emergency events, such as the July 4th Esplanade concert, Holyoke's St.

Patrick's Day parade, and other events with large attendance needing on site unified command and support.

Responses by type



In order for the Special Operations equipment to be used efficiently there are fifty-five individuals from throughout Massachusetts who are grouped into three regional teams who are activated to support the local incident. Each team member possesses a special talent such as fire service background, communications, logistics, data collection and many other technical skills. In order to provide a high level of support, team members are required to maintain their skills on a regular basis and are offered additional training to keep up with the ever-changing world of technology and of emergency operations.

The ISU with its technical support team responds to requests from the local Incident Commander at any incident to provide wide-ranging support for, and coordination of many functions, as well as offering

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## Waterline Construction

Continued from Page 1

"Our advice to all DFS staff and visitors is to plan accordingly and adjust your travel schedules to get to work or meetings," says Deputy Fire Marshal Tom Leonard. "This is a very important first step in the beginning of our long awaited facility expansion and we hope to be starting additional construction very soon," he added.

In addition to C.J. Mabardy, this part of the project's construction is being overseen by the Department of Capital Asset Management (DCAM), the Sudbury Water District, the Sudbury Public Works Department, Consigli Construction, the general contractor for the DFS project, and DiMella Shaffer, the architects for the new DFS facility. ♦



## What is Special Operations?

Continued from Page 2

numerous resources. The keyword is “support”. The team will not assume command at any incident; rather it will support and assist the incident command with its knowledge, technical expertise, and equipment under the directions of the incident commander.

Some of the services offered include incident documentation, resource inventory control, unified command support, communication, and use of the team’s facilities and equipment depending upon the specific needs of the incident. The team reports to the incident commander and operates under his/her direction.

channels as well as state agencies such as the Department of Fire Services, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, State Police, Massachusetts Highway, and U.S. Coast Guard

The 40-foot long rehabilitation unit provides on-scene rehabilitation to public safety employees by way of shelter from the elements. We are able to offer light fluids and snacks and we work with local emergency medical personnel to provide medical monitoring and treatment. The unit is self-supporting and carries fifty gallons of potable water used for making cool drinks, coffee, hot chocolate as well as on board mist-

on-scene lighting is needed, diesel powered lighting trailers are available to be brought to incidents. Two “whisper quiet” generators will be put into service by late June in order to provide long-term quiet electrical power to the ISU, rehab truck, Hazardous Materials Technical Operation Modules (TOMs) units, as well as the Regional Field Communications units.

There is no charge or fee associated with the use of the vehicle(s) and support team. Because the Special Operations team is under the auspices of the Department of Fire Services, it is provided free of charge and can respond anywhere throughout the Commonwealth. This is a benefit when coordinating multiple state agencies, such as fire departments providing mutual aid, hazardous materials response teams, State Police fire investigators, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

A single phone call to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Communications division at 508-820-

2000 should be used for immediate response of any Special Operations team or equipment. Early activation is important as all equipment is based at or near the Department of Fire Services Headquarters in Stow and activation and travel time to the incident can be from 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on location, weather and time of day.

For planned responses and events please call the Special Operations office at the Department of Fire Services at 978-567-3171 to discuss your needs and procedures. To download and print an activation flyer for your dispatchers or to learn more and see pictures of the equipment please visit the Department of Fire Services web site at: [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). ♦



The primary Special Operations vehicle is the Incident Support Unit (ISU), which is a 40-foot-long, 11-foot-10-inch-high custom vehicle, with a 300-hp diesel engine. The vehicle is self sufficient and set up for full operations within 15 minutes of arrival. The interior is divided into two areas with the front portion being a fully equipped conference room, providing video, telephone, and radio communication for incident operations. The rear section is the communication center with two radio consoles providing low, high, ultra-high, and 800-frequency communication representing the brain center of the unit. These frequencies cover all fire departments statewide, including ITAC (National Itinerant Mutual Tactical Channel), local public safety channels, and marine

ing units. There is interior seating for nineteen people and it is equipped with four video monitors, four ice machines, and two refrigerators. Awnings can be deployed on both sides for added room and if needed, portable tents can be set up for remote “rehab” operations.

The Incident Support Trailer (IST) as well as lighting and “whisper quiet” generators round out the available equipment. The IST is designed with a 40-foot antenna tower that works independently for repeater operations remote from the ISU, as well as to carry a large inflatable tent with lighting and heat. The trailer has a small operations room equipped with a mobile radio for each frequency band, and is powered by a small quiet run gas generator. In the event

## Juveniles Ignite Stoughton Blaze

On May 9, 2007 a fire was ignited at the Knollsbrook condominium complex in Stoughton behind a carriage house on the property. The carriage house and five vehicles inside it were destroyed by the blaze. From the carriage house, the fire extended to two separate structures, resulting in the total loss of one structure and minor heat damage to another. A sixth vehicle in front of one of the units also received fire damage. The fire was determined to be intentionally set and two juveniles admitted to playing with a lighter behind the carriage house. Fortunately, there were no injuries or fatalities as a result of this fire. The fire was jointly investigated by the Stoughton Fire Department, Stoughton Police Department and State Police South Team fire investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Norfolk County has a strong juvenile firesetting intervention program – the Norfolk Firewall Partnership, coordinated by District Attorney Keating's Office. ♦

## State's Burn Registry Helps Solve Springfield Arson

State Police fire investigators from the West Team and the North Team worked together to solve a burn injury and an arson fire. A Lawrence man showed up for Christmas celebrations with his family covered in severe burns. Mr. Rivera's family immediately took him to the hospital and he spent the following month in a medically induced coma with no one knowing what had happened.

In Massachusetts all burns extending to 5% or more of the body surface area must be reported to the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System (M-BIRS). The goal is to track arsonists who may injure themselves in the course of setting their fire and then avoid detection by seeking medical treatment at some distance from the fire scene.

In mid-February a Lawrence man went to a Methuen hospital with burns on his hands that were not new. The mandatory M-BIRS report to the Office of the State Fire Marshal was received where all burn reports involving gasoline and especially those to the hands are investigated. Mr. Alvarez told investigators he was burned while pouring gas into his truck's carburetor, but his truck showed no signs of being involved in a fire.

Investigators learned that a house Mr. Alvarez owned in Springfield, which was about to be foreclosed upon, had been deliberately set on fire on Christmas Eve 2006. Evidence from the fire scene indicated Mr. Rivera, still recovering from his mysterious burns, had been there.

When Mr. Rivera was finally able to be interviewed, he told police Alvarez had asked him to travel from Lawrence to Springfield to burn down the home. Rivera entered first with Alvarez following; Rivera said he smelled gas and Alvarez asked for a lighter. Both men were burned by the resulting fire, but Rivera's burns were more severe. He asked Alvarez to take him to a hospital but instead Alvarez drove him home to Lawrence, where he collapsed holding a warm bottle of Pepsi.

The family had only known that Rivera was going out for a walk and then found him badly burned. Alvarez has been charged by Springfield Police with arson. This case was investigated by the Springfield and Lawrence Police Department, the Springfield and Lawrence Fire Departments and State Police fire investigators from both the West and the North Teams in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The investigation continues. ♦

## Oxford Teens Charged with Arson

Three teenagers, aged 14, 15, and 16 were arrested last March for setting three vehicles and a convenience store on fire over a ten-day period. They threw two-liter soda bottles containing gasoline to set their fires. It is believed they randomly picked unlocked vehicles parked outside the owner's homes. The vehicles included a 1990 Toyota, a 2000 Chevy Cavalier on February 20 and on March 1, a 1995 Nissan pickup truck. On February 24, the teens threw a soda bottle of gasoline at a local convenience store, which was quickly extinguished and caused about \$1,000 damage. The fire was investigated by the Oxford Fire Department, Oxford Police Department and State Police Central Team fire investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. ♦

## Preschool Bulletin Board Fire in Church Leads to Arrest of Serial Arsonist

A fire set in September 2006 on the bulletin board in a day-care classroom located inside the West Congregational Church in Haverhill lead to the arrest of a 35-year old Haverhill woman. The investigation revealed that she had been setting fires for at least 15 years in the greater Haverhill area, and it is possible she was also a juvenile firesetter. She was connected to each of the places where the fires were started as a student, an employee or a parishioner. Although many of the fires were outside the statute of limitations, she was charged with the church/day care fire and with a 2000 fire at a Dunkin' Donuts. Because she had been out of state for nine days in 2005, it added

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nine days to the statute of limitations making the charges on the Dunkin' Donuts fire possible.

The church fire occurred around 7:30 in the evening and was extinguished by a staff member using a fire extinguisher. There were over 100 people using the building in the evening: a scouts group, a youth group, the chorus and an adult group. Fortunately no students were in the classroom at the time of the fire and no one was injured.

This fire highlights the reasons behind the fire prevention regulations on paper on school walls. The simple flick of a lighter to paper on a bulletin board can start a fire. All fires start small and fortunately this one was discovered right away and kept small.

The woman confessed to setting six fires which investigators were able to verify. She is a suspect in two other fires.

- She confessed to setting the September 20, 2006 fire in the day care classroom of the West Congregational Church, where she was also a parishioner.
- She is a suspect in a trash can fire in the office of another Dunkin Donuts in North Andover on November 25, 2000.
- She confessed to setting a fire in the trash bin in the men's room on August 17, 2000 at a Dunkin' Donuts where she was an employee and a dumpster fire at the same facility on November 15, 2000.
- She is a suspect in a shed fire behind the Alliance Church Noah's Ark Day Care Center after having her hours reduced. The fire occurred on November 23, 1995 in Haverhill.
- She confessed to setting a fire in the paper goods aisle at the Demoulas' Market Basket in 1991 when she was an employee at the Haverhill store. There had been two previous fires in the bathrooms when she was on duty.
- She confessed to setting a small room and contents fire in the girls'

locker room at Haverhill High School on June 7, 1990 causing \$1,000 damage and again on June 21, 1990 causing \$25,000 in damages. She took an evening aerobics class held at the high school.

- She also confessed to setting the rope on fire in the gym at Haverhill High School. This was in early June 1990.

The fires were investigated by the Haverhill Fire Department, Haverhill Police Department and State Police North Team fire investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

After she was arrested and the local press covered the story, a Haverhill woman called the arson hotline about a fire that had occurred at her home in 1997. The arsonist had been her babysitter at the time and was not originally a suspect. Oddly enough the only thing removed from the home prior to the deliberately set fire had been videos of the children. Since a domestic issue was occurring at the same time, the missing videos led investigators to think the fire and the domestic issues were related. It turns out the videos included footage of the babysitter/arsonist as well. ♦



Photo by: Andrew Murphy

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## BATTERIES

3/1/07 ..... 07-118

### ThinkPad Notebook PC Extended-Life Batteries

Lenovo Inc.

If the battery in the laptop is struck forcefully on the corner, the battery can overheat & pose a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07118.html>

4/25/07 ..... 07-167

### Rechargeable Lithium-ion Batteries Containing Sony-made Cells Used in Acer Notebook Computers

Acer America Corp.

The lithium-ion batteries can overheat posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07167.html>

## BOOM BOXES

4/24/07 ..... 07-165



### Coby-brand USB/MP3/CD Boom boxes

Coby Electronics Corp.

When left plugged into an electrical outlet & the off switch is not firmly in place, they can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07165.html>

## CANDLES

2/22/07 ..... 07-111

### Gel Candles

M & A Global Technologies dba Spa at Home

The candles have excessive flame height posing a fire & burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07111.html>

4/5/07 ..... 07-150

### Chanukah Oil Candles

Aviv Judaica Imports Ltd.

The oil candles can become engulfed in flames & melt the plastic cups holding the candles in place, allowing hot wax to leak out.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07150.html>

4/18/07 ..... 07-161

### Tequila Rose Strawberry Cream Candle Sets

McCormick Distilling Co. dba Tequila Rose Distilling Co.

The martini glass containing the gel candle can break while the candle is burning posing a burn & fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07161.html>

## CLAMP METERS

3/15/07 ..... 07-130

### Amprobe Clamp Meters

Amprobe Test Tools

The meters can fail to give an appropriate voltage reading, resulting in the operator believing the electrical power is off, posing a risk of shock, electrocution or thermal burns.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07130.html>

## DISHWASHER

5/16/07 ..... 07-190

### GE Dishwashers

General Electric Consumer & Industrial

Liquid rinse-aid can leak from its dispenser onto the internal wiring and cause an electrical short & overheating.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07190.html>

## ELECTRIC HEATERS

4/26/07 ..... 07-168

### Holmes Oil-filled Electric Heaters

Holmes Group

A poor electrical connection within the heater can lead to overheating.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07168.html>

## ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

4/18/07 ..... 07-159

### Carlson Drop-In Floor Boxes

Lamson & Sessions

The floor boxes are wired incorrectly resulting in reversing polarity, posing a shock or electrocution hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07159.html>

## ELECTRONIC KEYBOARDS

3/20/07 ..... 07-133

### Electronic Musical Keyboards

Casio Computer Co. Ltd.

The keyboards can overheat when in use posing a fire hazard/

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07133.html>

## GAS GRILLS

3/6/07 ..... 07-122

### Weber Genesis 320 Series Gas Grills

Weber-Stevens Products Co.

The gas hose attached to the side burner can crack or break off during shipping, causing it to leak gas when in use.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml07/07122.html>



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## CPSC Recalls & Releases

Continued from Page 6

5/1/07 ..... 07-170

### Char-Broil Two-Burner Gas Grills Model # 463720407

Char-Broil LLC & Winmax

The grills could have an incorrect heat shield that does not fit the grills. Because of this the propane tank, hose & regulator could overheat & damage these components.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07170.html>

5/3/07 ..... 07-180

### Perfect Flame Four-Burner Gas Grills

Sagittarius Sporting Goods & L G Sourcing

Some of these grills could be missing a hose that connects the grill manifold to the side burner posing a fire & burn risk.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07180.html>

## HEAT RECOVERY VENTILATORS

3/29/07 ..... 07-143

### Heat Recovery Ventilators

Venmar Ventilation Inc.

The motors in these units can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07143.html>

## HOT WATER BOILERS

4/5/07 ..... 07-151

### NTI Trinity Gas-Fired Hot Water Boilers

NY Thermal Inc.

Acidic liquid in a drain line can cause a fitting in the boiler to leak, posing a risk of CO poisoning to consumers.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07151.html>

## LAMPS

5/9/07 ..... 07-183

### Halogen Table Lamps

Winsource Industries Ltd.

These lamps can short-circuit posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07183.html>

5/17/07 ..... 07-191

### Currey & Company Table Lamps

Currey & Company

The light sockets on these lamps have a defect, posing a shock & fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07191.html>

## MOTORCYCLES

5/23/07 ..... 07-194

### Off-Road Motorcycles

KTM North America Inc.

The seal around the fuel tank can loosen allowing fuel to leak posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07194.html>

## PAJAMAS

4/17/07 ..... 07-156

### Baby Einstein Caterpillar & Duck Sleepwear

Disney Stores & The Children's Place

The sleepwear fails to meet the children's flammability standard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07156.html>

## RADIO CONTROLLED AIRPLANES

3/27/07 ..... 07-139

### Estes-Cox Radio Controlled Airplane w/Lithium Polymer Batteries Estes-Cox Corp.

The airplanes can overheat while recharging the battery, posing a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07139.html>

## REMOTE CONTROL

2/22/07 ..... 07-110

### Insignia DVD Players

Best Buy

If batteries are placed backwards, overheating can result in a burn hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07110.html>

## SMOKE DETECTORS

3/22/07 ..... 07-136

### Digital Security Controls FSA & FSB Series Smoke Detectors

Digital Security Controls

These smoke detectors could fail to reliably detect smoke during a fire.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07136.html>

## SPAS

5/3/07 ..... 07-177

### Coast Spas

Coast Spas & The Engineered Motor Products Division

The circulating pump & motor assembly can overheat & pose a fire hazard.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07177.html>

## WALL SCONCES

3/21/04 ..... 07-134

### Oyster Bay Model Wall Sconces

Home Decorators Collection

A missing back plate exposes consumers to live wires, posing

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07134.html>

## WASHING MACHINES

3/21/07 ..... 07-135

### Maytag & Samsung Front Loading Washing Machines

Maytag Corp. & Samsung Electronics

Water leakage into the electrical connections to the thermal sensor could cause an electrical short & ignite a circuit board.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07135.html> ♦



# MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTING ACADEMY

## Walker New MFA Director

**E**d Walker returned to the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy as its director on June 25. He has been the Weston fire chief since 2002 and a member of the department since 1984. He is a certified EMT, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, Fire Officer, and Firefighter. Chief Walker previously worked at the academy as an instructor and as a program coordinator before becoming fire chief, so

he is very familiar with the academy and the Department of Fire Services as a whole. He has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maine, a Bachelor of Science in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology from the University of Cincinnati, a Masters of Science in Business Administration from Northeastern University and is enrolled in the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. ♦



## NFA Scholarships For Call and Vol. Firefighters

The *National Fire Academy Alumni Association* in partnership with *Delmar Publishing* is proud to announce that the Scholarship Program continues to provide scholarships to send first time firefighters to the National Fire Academy's (NFA) Emmitsburg, Maryland campus. The program is open to those first time volunteers in need of a meal ticket to attend either a VIP or a two-week residential course. Along with the free stipend for transportation and this scholarship, a first time student could attend NFA at no cost after reimbursements.

To apply for this academy school year (October-September) for either semester, fill out the scholarship application online at <http://www.nfaa-lumni.org> and mail it to the NFAAA Administrator upon acceptance of the student to a NFA resident course.

The address is:  
Chief Ron Kanterman,  
P.O. Box 2000 (RY19-11)  
Rahway NJ 07065  
E-mail: [ron\\_kanterman@merck.com](mailto:ron_kanterman@merck.com)

Scholarship winners will be notified by mail or e-mail, and will be published on the web site at [NFAA-LUMNI.ORG](http://NFAA-LUMNI.ORG).

**Criteria:** The member of your department must be a **first time** attendee at the NFA, a **volunteer firefighter/officer**, and must demonstrate a need for the scholarship. Each region (10) has money allotted for: two VIP scholarships of \$150 each; or, one, two week residential scholarship of \$300. This money will cover the cost of meals for the time period spent at the NFA. Much like the travel stipend, successful completion of the course is required. NFAAA will disburse the funds after the class is completed and a copy of the NFA certificate is sent to the NFAAA Administrator. ♦

## MFA Course Registration

Registration for fall courses is upon us and the forecast is for an active training season at DFS/MFA. Training is available to duly appointed members of municipal fire departments within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who are at least eighteen years of age. To view all courses scheduled, please refer to the DFS/MFA Course Schedule catalog mailed to your chief and training officer or visit our website at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and click on *Training*. Course descriptions can be obtained on-line by clicking on the course title. This course listing on the web is updated weekly. The Registration Office can be reached at (978) 567-3200.

For open enrollment courses you may apply online, by fax (978-567-3229) or mail the standard Student Application form to the Registrar, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. These courses are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Students who apply for courses that have a priority selection process will be notified no later than two weeks before the start date of a class as to their application status.

For courses involving live fire training Sections D & E of the standard Student Application must be signed by the chief or training officer from your department and can be mailed or faxed to 978-567-3229.

Out of state firefighters may attend academy courses for a fee if there are seats still available two weeks prior to the start date of a class. Please call the Registration Office for more information.

Closed training is available to your individual department for a fee under a Municipal Hire contract. Please contact Kate D'Amelio at (978) 567-3226 or [Kathleen.D'Amelio@state.ma.us](mailto:Kathleen.D'Amelio@state.ma.us) for a quote. ♦



# Chief Fire Officer Program

By Everett G. Pierce

**Great news!** The Chief Fire Officer program will be coming back on line after a major revision. Not only will it be back on line but it is also a dramatically enhanced program.

After nearly a year of work on the part of the Department of Fire Services and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute staffs, we will be presenting our first offering in the fall of 2007. The program will begin on Thursday, September 13 and run for 13 weeks on Thursdays.

All of us involved in this project are excited with the new offering. Some of the reasons for this excitement include:

- The new program covers all of the material required under NFPA 1021 for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV.
- Working with the Certification Group, we will be conducting written certification exams for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV as part of the program. The Fire Officer III exam will be in place of the midterm and the Fire Officer IV will be the final exam.
- There is a requirement, as before, for the completion and submission of a research paper. This not only satisfies the requirements of UMass for CEU's but also satisfies Pro Board requirements for certification.
- UMass will be offering CEU's for both undergraduate and graduate level programs. This will help those who are pursuing their professional development at the college level.
- We have decided to use a blend of private sector subject matter experts and fire service professionals. Private sector educators will present seven of the topics while nationally recognized fire service professionals will present five.
- The initial offering will be done off site at the University of Massachusetts facility on 333 South Street in Shrewsbury. This allows us the use of a state of the art training facility while providing a convenient location for the participants.

All of the above features demonstrate the commitment of DFS and the University of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts fire service. Our goal is to deliver relevant training, presented by experts in their field and to provide the participants with the most value for their time and effort. We feel this program delivers on this goal.

We will be covering a variety of topics that are pertinent to chief fire officers including:

- Leadership and the Chief Fire Officer
- Administrative Structures
- Basic Communication Skills
- Supervision and Management
- Logic, Ethics, and Decision Making

- Human Resource Management
- Community and Government Relations
- Administrative Programs
- Fire Prevention and Life Safety Programs
- Emergency Services Delivery
- Comprehensive Safety and Health Programs

All of the material will come from the IFSTA Chief Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition book. Each student will be given an IFSTA book and DVD student guide at the beginning of the program. In addition to the subjects listed, the participants will be required to do considerable out of class preparation in advance of each class as well as their research paper.

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## Technical Rescue Update

In February 2006, Mark McCabe and Tom Rinoldo were sent to the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls to attend a two-day train the trainer for "Incident Command System for Structural Collapse Incidents" (ICSSCI) and were impressed with the program enough to add it to the Technical Rescue Group's core curriculum.



Developed by the National Fire Academy, ICSSCI is a two-day classroom delivery designed to acclimate the student to the complexities of managing a structural collapse incident. Enrollment in the class is not limited to chief officers or those with technical rescue experience. It is encouraged for all

fire service personnel who might respond to a collapse incident to attend and participate.

While considered a low probability occurrence, a structural collapse can happen in any community regardless of size and capabilities. ICSSCI gives fire service personnel an understanding of the command structure, levels of response, operational phases and identifies critical factors and issues that affect scene management.

The group gave the first delivery of this program in December 2006 and received high reviews from those in attendance. Two more deliveries have already been scheduled for May and October of 2007.

If you are interested in hosting or attending a class or just looking for more information about ICSSCI, please contact the Technical Rescue office at (978) 567-3214 or check the DFS website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa/index.shtml> for scheduled classes and registration information. ♦

## Chief Officer Program

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This is a priority selection program. The priority will be as follows:

1. Chief Administrators/  
Chief of Department
2. Chief Officers
3. Acting Chief Officers
4. Company Officers

In addition, all participants must be minimum ICS 200 qualified and preferably ICS 300. A portion of the course deals with NIMS and requires a working knowledge of the National Incident Management System.

To register for the program, interested students should complete one copy of the Chief Fire Officer Management Training Program applica-

tion and attach the following:

- An organizational chart showing all department positions and indicating the applicant's position.
- A one-page statement of why the applicant should be accepted into the program.
- A copy of the Pro Board and/or IF-SAC certificate for each certification level the applicant currently holds.
- A copy of certificate showing completion of ICS 200 and/or ICS 300 program(s).

The deadline for registering for the fall 2007 course is 1700 hours on Friday, August 3, 2007. Any questions concerning the program or application should be directed to

## Trench Rescue

By Mark McCabe & Thomas Rinoldo

**T**he Technical Rescue Programs staff at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy is working on offering a trench rescue class. The expected first delivery of this class is slated for the fall of 2007. We have been working hard on getting the equipment, current information, latest statistics, and developing the best practical evolutions to give the student the knowledge, skills and abilities to handle a trench emergency in their community.

This trench rescue program has been based on the most current editions of *NFPA 1670, Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents*, and *NFPA 1006, Rescue Technician Professional Qualifications*.



There will be a classroom portion followed by practical evolutions dealing with tools and equipment used in a trench, sizing up a rescue scene, and controlling hazards in and around a trench. The student will learn how to shore a straight wall trench as well as an intersecting trench, and how to extricate a victim buried in soil.

When the student completes the course they will possess the knowledge of trench rescue and how to operate around them safely. They will also possess the skills reinforced in the practical evolutions in dealing with trenches. Once put together they will have the ability to save somebody from a trench collapse safely.

If you have any questions or would be interested in hosting the trench class in the future, please call the Technical Rescue Program staff at 978-567-3214. ♦

## Smoke Characterization Study

To view a copy of the study go to <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Research/SmokeCharacterization.pdf>

*April 24, 2007*— The Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) announced the completion of a study that enhances the fire safety community's understanding of modern fire hazards and may eventually lead to changes in how people are kept safer from fire. Download the report for free. (PDF, 3 MB)

The \$700,000 joint study systematically investigated the characteristics of smoke and how materials used in modern residential settings have changed the way fires behave in homes. The year-long Smoke Characterization Project studied 27 synthetic and natural materials and various combinations of materials now more commonly found in homes.

Until recently, these different smoke characteristics couldn't be studied in such detail. In developing the Smoke Characterization Project, UL invested more than \$500,000 to conduct the study and to secure the latest scientific measurement equipment. With this advanced analytical ability, UL's fire science experts were able to investigate the chemical and physical properties of smoke at a new level of sophistication.

"This review is the first of its kind to study such a wide range of materials now found in homes," said Kathleen Almand, executive director of FPRF. "What we are learning will enable public safety officials to further develop education and training programs regarding the use of smoke alarms in residential structures and provide valuable data to fire science engi-

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# CODE COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

## Nicole's Law Regulations Finalized

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations recently completed the promulgation process for the Commonwealth's new carbon monoxide (CO) alarm protection regulations, 527 CMR 31.00 (Code of Massachusetts Regulations). The regulations implement, "Nicole's Law", (M.G.L. c. 148, s. 26F1/2) named after a young Plymouth, MA girl who died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in January, 2005. The comprehensive regulations apply to all residential buildings and institutional buildings used for residential purposes that contain CO sources such as fossil fuel burning equipment or enclosed parking.

The final version was the result of a two-year effort of the board to create a comprehensive regulation that takes into account the various types of buildings and CO threats. Most residential buildings can be protected by using a variety of different CO alarms currently available at many local retailers. These residential buildings were required to be protected as of 3-31-06. Other buildings, such as most hotels and institutional structures, including nursing homes and hospitals are required to install hard-wired alarms by 1-1-08.

The board also created a variety of technical options that may be employed by owners of buildings that present CO risks in limited portions of a building. These options target,

contain or eliminate the CO at its source and warn building occupants and fire departments in the event of a harmful CO threat. In general however, the technical CO protection methods will probably only be used in larger buildings where they may prove to be a more efficient and cost effective.

The new regulations, among other things, require an inspection by the local fire department upon the buildings sale or transfer, similar to the current smoke alarm inspection requirements. Additionally, the use of a technical option requires follow-up inspection and maintenance and emergency planning in the event of a CO incident.

A copy of the regulation can be found at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). For more information you may also contact the State Fire Marshal's Code Compliance Unit at 978-567-3375.

The efforts of certain DFS employees who were involved with the implementation and educational aspects of the new law were publicly recognized at the Commonwealth's 2006 Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony where they received the Manuel Carballo award. The Commonwealth's recent CO regulatory efforts have also been recognized on a national scale as several states are planning to follow the Massachusetts example for CO protection. ♦

## Gasoline Leak at Leominster Gas Station

On April 30, 2007, State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Leominster Fire Chief Ronald Pierce concluded that there was a gasoline leak at the Mr. Mike's convenience store and gas station located at 280 New Lancaster Road in Leominster. Code compliance officers from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, charged with enforcing the Underground Storage Tank regulations, and members of the Leominster Fire Prevention Bureau worked together to determine the cause of the failure.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) continues to work with the company's environmental consultant as the ongoing assessment and evaluation of site conditions. The nearest private water supply well has been tested repeatedly and to date no contamination is present. MassDEP will continue to ensure the timely development and implementation of a remediation (cleanup) plan as it moves forward.

Chief Pierce said, "At this time there is no fire or explosion hazard."

"There are no imminent hazard conditions, but there is a large amount of gasoline that's been released and it needs to be recovered promptly rather than allow it the chance to contaminate the environment further," said Mary Gardner, Deputy Regional Director of MassDEP's Central Regional Office in Worcester.

On March 12, employees at Mr. Mike's observed gasoline leaking from underneath the fuel dispenser and shut off the pump. Subsequent testing indicated a failure of the product line between the tank

## USFA Coffee Break Training

### Topic: Aging Smoke Alarms

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify manufacturer's date codes on some single-station smoke alarms.

Single-station residential smoke alarms, like almost any other electronic products, have an expected useful life span. Since the early days of residential smoke alarms, this life cycle has been 10 years. Once these devices reach this

age their ability to function reliably declines substantially. NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code® requires these devices to be replaced at 10 years of age or when they become inoperable, whichever comes first.

Beginning in 1999, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) required the manufacturing date code on the back of the device to be printed in plain English. Smoke alarms

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## Gasoline Leak, Leominster

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and the mid-grade fuel dispenser. The piping was secured from both ends to prevent further use until repairs could be made. Pressure testing of the piping to the other tanks showed they were secure.

### Inventory

Underground storage tank owners are required to maintain daily inventory records showing the amount of gasoline in each tank at the start and end of each day, and the amount of product dispensed by and delivered to each tank, each day. It took the company approximately four weeks to reconcile its inventory records at the request of fire officials. The amount of product lost was as much as 9,500 gallons of gasoline. It appears that there had been warning signs in the daily inventory records for an extended period of time that indicated a possible leak. Failure to notify authorities of continued unexplained product loss is a violation of the State Fire Code. A notice of violation was issued for their failure to maintain proper inventory records and to conduct monthly reconciliation.

### Monitoring Wells

The MassDEP required the installation of monitoring wells that detected petroleum product in the ground. The MassDEP has also required the company to install extraction pumps to remove gasoline and gasoline vapors. The company was required to submit a status report recommending further remedial measures to the MassDEP by May 11.

### Source of the Leak

There were two points where fuel was leaking from the fiberglass double wall piping.

When the site of the existing piping is excavated code compliance officers should get a better understanding of what caused the failure. The first point was on the bottom side of the mid-grade product line. It appears that it was probably inad-

vertently damaged at installation and that is the point where the leak ultimately occurred. There was damage on the bottom on the inner pipe and none on the outer pipe, which lead code compliance officials to conclude it had to have happened at installation.

Because the outer wall of the piping was capped, the leak backed up inside the outer wall piping to the dispenser pan beneath the pump and traveled down in the outer walls of the piping for other product lines. Thus reaching the second leak point, which was at a T in the outer wall piping that was cracked. This is where the fuel spilled into the ground. The product leaking did not come from the product line this double wall protected, but rather from the leak that came from another product line. The amount of product that flowed out through the leak was less than the amount flowing towards it, so it eventually backed up in the outer wall piping to the dispenser pan where a small amount was released on the ground and was noticed by employees.

The T was only two feet below the asphalt and the frostline. While early March was that freeze/thaw time of year, it is impossible for us to tell if the leak occurred this year or several years ago.

The double wall piping of the mid-grade product line was capped so the fuel backed to the dispenser, instead of dripping into the containment vault for the tank that contained monitoring sensors, which would have alerted people to the leak sooner.

The owners received a notice of violation on 3/13/07 citing them for several violations. The most important of which was failure to correctly conduct inventory reconciliation. If they had done it correctly, this entire incident could have been averted. The loss of product needs to be addressed immediately and ultimately they had been experiencing losses of product since August.

Everything that needs to be replaced has been and the station is back in full operation. ♦

## Raising Money for Carbon Monoxide Alarms in Lunenburg

A new carbon monoxide (CO) awareness program, **Get Alarmed, Lunenburg!**, a partnership between the Lunenburg Turkey Hill Family Lions Club and the Lunenburg Fire Department was launched on May 19, 2007. Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard was the guest speaker at the kick-off pancake breakfast. The proceeds from the breakfast will be used to provide CO alarms to Lunenburg residents who would otherwise be unable to obtain them.

Massachusetts' residences were required by state law to install CO alarms by March 31, 2006, but many Lunenburg homes remain unprotected. It is hoped that the **Get Alarmed, Lunenburg!** will help to increase the number of residences

with both CO alarms and smoke alarms.

The idea for the **Get Alarmed, Lunenburg!** project came from one of the Lions Club's members: Lunenburg Fire Chief Scott Glenny. With the assistance of Lion David Clement, the Lunenburg Turkey Hill Family Lions Club and the Lunenburg Fire Department launched the program to promote public awareness that CO detectors, as well as smoke detectors, save lives. In addition, the project's goal is to educate the public to the dangers of CO exposure and the importance of installing and maintaining working detectors.

CO, known as the silent killer, is a

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## Raising Money, Lunenburg

Continued from Page 12

colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from incomplete burning of fuels such as natural gas, propane, oil, wood, coal and gasoline. Each year, many people die from accidental CO poisoning and thousands more are injured.

According to Dave Clement, possibly another three or four Lions Clubs in the U.S. have similar CO safety campaigns, but the **Get Alarmed, Lunenburg!** may be the first of its kind in Massachusetts.



"The Department of Fire Services encourages fire departments to approach their local Lions Club to develop and support a similar CO safety awareness campaign," says Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom Leonard. "DFS commends Chief Glenny and Dave Clement for their efforts. Fire chiefs should contact Chief Glenny for more information on the **Get Alarmed, Lunenburg!** program." ♦

## fireTRIVIA!

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were some of the few items saved when the Congressional Library burned in 1851.

## August Deadline Set for End to Central Sprinkler O-Ring Sprinkler Recall

*Property Owners Should Act Now To Request Replacement of Sprinkler Heads*

**Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 871-3492**

**CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler Company are urging residential and commercial property owners who have O-ring sprinklers covered under the previously-announced recall and have not yet filed a claim to replace them, to contact Central Sprinkler immediately. Home and commercial property owners need to submit their claim immediately, as the program for receiving free replacement heads will end on August 31, 2007.



The voluntary replacement program (VRP), which was first announced in July 2001, included about 35 million O-ring fire sprinklers manufactured by Central Sprinkler, Gem Sprinkler Company and Star Sprinkler Inc. due to a concern that some O-ring sprinklers might not operate in a fire situation. To participate in the replacement sprinkler program, property owners must submit "Proof of Claim" and "Waiver and Release of Claims" forms to Central Sprinkler Company postmarked by August 31, 2007. Valid claims received prior to the deadline will qualify for free replacement sprinkler heads and installation services.

Consumers can obtain additional information on identifying the sprinklers covered by this recall and instructions on filing a claim by visiting [www.sprinklerreplacement.com](http://www.sprinklerreplacement.com) or by calling Central Sprinkler at (800) 871-3492 anytime. For a full list of sprinkler heads involved in the recall, consumers can view CPSC's previous press release at [www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm101/01201.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtm101/01201.html).

This deadline relates only to the Central Sprinkler O-ring sprinkler recall announced on July 19, 2001. It does not involve additional models of sprinklers other than those named in July 2001. Building owners who already have: (1) had replacement sprinklers installed by Central Sprinkler; (2) submitted a claim to Central Sprinkler that has been deemed complete and installation of the replacement heads is pending; or (3) confirmed that their sprinkler heads are not covered by the Central Sprinkler VRP, need not take any further action under the VRP. Building owners who have previously submitted an incomplete claim will be sent a reminder notice requiring them to send in any missing information or materials by the August 31 deadline or else their claim will be void.

Central Sprinkler urges all other building owners to consult with their fire sprinkler installer and/or check their system records as soon as possible to determine whether their sprinkler heads are covered by this program. ♦

## Safe Neighborhoods Chemical Initiative

In order to make catastrophes like the Danversport explosion less likely in the future, a new pilot inspection program involving agencies from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, working with local fire officials, will focus on facilities located in or near residential areas that handle dangerous materials.

Through the new Safe Neighborhoods Chemical Initiative, teams of inspectors from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and Department of Fire Services will be joined by local fire departments in conducting hazard assessments at predominantly small to mid-sized facilities that are deemed to pose a significant danger to populations in the event of a problem or accident. Initially, MassDEP and DFS have identified some 40 facilities across the Commonwealth for inspection based on proximity to densely populated areas or to sensitive populations, types or amounts of new chemicals or waste materials used and stored, and past history at the site.

Facilities will be chosen for inspection if, in the judgment of the partnering agencies, they show the following characteristics:

- Potential for accident causing injury, death, or destruction
- Flammable liquids or gas, reactive and water reactive chemicals, poisonous gases and liquids, explosives, or other highly hazardous materials present on site
- Densely populated areas located nearby.

Facilities will be approached in a collaborative manner, offering assistance in achieving compliance in materials handling. If they do not cooperate, access may be compelled through various means, up to and including administrative search warrants.

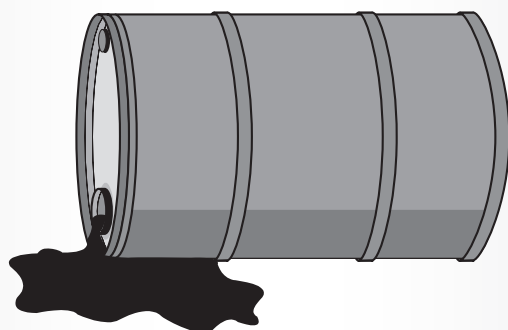
For DEP, this pilot program is part of a first-in-the-nation initiative to inspect the hazardous waste storage and handling procedures of more small- and medium-sized manufacturing plants across the state. Based on past experience, MassDEP has found higher levels of regulatory noncompliance at

smaller facilities (13 percent noncompliance rates) than at larger facilities (9 percent). There are approximately 15,000 Small Quantity and Very Small Quantity Generators of haz-

ardous waste in the state. MassDEP typically inspects roughly 200 each year.

There are 485 Large Quantity Generators in Massachusetts, and MassDEP is required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency to inspect 20 percent of them each year. Under this new arrangement, MassDEP will have the flexibility to reduce its inspections of Large Quantity Generators and increase its inspections of Small Quantity Generators, which seem to pose a greater risk.

Inspections of the first 10 to 15 facilities should be completed within a two-month period. Results will be evaluated to determine future strategies that can be used by state and local officials to improve the safety of operations at all small to medium-sized facilities. ♦



manufactured before 1999 may have plain English or "coded" manufacture dates. This information may appear on the back of the device, on the face of the horn, in the battery compartment or on the top sensing chamber. The labeling requirement appears in Chapter 11 of NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code®, 2002 Edition.

Code enforcement personnel who can readily decipher these date codes can identify those smoke alarms that are due for replacement.

Earlier versions of BRK, First Alert and Family Guard devices had a date code consisting of a series of numbers that appeared either on the face of the horn or on the top of the sensing chamber. The date code consists of the first four digits in a series of numbers and letters. The numbers designate the following:

The first digit represents the year of manufacture and the next three digits represent the day of the year. For example, in a code of 4015 6J, the first digit is the year (1994); the next three indicate the 15th day of the year or January 15th, 1994. The remaining characters are manufacturing information not necessarily related to the manufacture date.

One problem with the BRK, First Alert and Family Guard system is that there is no way to determine the year of manufacture from the code. The first digit "4" could represent 2004, 1994 or even 1984. An additional tool is to closely examine the circuit board that will include a code like "83R". This means that this circuit board type was first used in 1983. This can help narrow down the correct manufacturing date.

Fynetics (Lifesaver), now Kidde, also used a five or six-digit coding system before 1999. The first two digits of their codes represent the month of production, the second two digits represent the year of manufacture, and the last digit or digits represents the week of the month. Therefore, a date code of 049203 would be translated as April, 1992, during the third week of the month. ♦



## Hazmat To Increase Bio-Threat Incident Analysis Capabilities

Beginning in late summer of 2007, the DFS Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams will increase their ability to provide recommendations for incident commanders on suspected bio-threat incidents. This substantial enhancement comes as the result of several years of work at the state and national levels to develop an approach that addresses concerns over field-testing held within the public health and FBI communities.

Hazmat teams currently carry "Lateral Flow Assay," (LFA) often termed hand-held assay systems, which are capable of detecting the presence of ricin toxin. These devices are used under strict limitations and only when evidence suggests the presence or strong potential presence of the particular toxin. The same system has the capability to test for anthrax, but its use for this test has been the subject of impassioned nationwide debate.

Following an agreement between EOPS, DFS and Public Health (DPH), that recognized the need for tactical decision making support, a concentrated effort was mounted to address the concerns surrounding LFAs and to arrive at a capability that does not exceed the confidence level of the test equipment. Over an 18-month period, the Hazmat Division of DFS and the Bio-Threat Laboratory of DPH worked to find these solutions. This effort resulted in what many at the national level believe is now a national model program for field-testing and collaboration between responders and laboratories. Hazmat teams have received training and will soon undergo a competency verification process and will be issued the specific testing assays.

### **The Heart of the Issue**

While lateral flow assays have been used for years to identify a host of biological conditions and substances, including pregnancy, early use of these tests by responders for anthrax had a multitude of bad outcomes. This early track record

caused public health and federal officials to uniformly reject their use and some state and local authorities, including Mass DPH also oppose them.

There were five principal factors that the DFS/DPH team identified that caused the outcomes and resulting opposition:

- Field tests have a lower reliability than laboratory tests – the two terms used are sensitivity and specificity. Sensitivity refers to the number of spores necessary for the assay to detect anthrax while specificity is the ability of the assay to recognize anthrax versus a close family member or other interferent.
- Training was only provided by the manufacturer or vendor and the limitations of the systems were often understated.
- Responders were not taught proper sampling techniques and samples were often contaminated or used up for field testing, leaving an insufficient sample for confirmatory lab testing.
- Protocols and training were not provided in "what to do with the information." This often led to premature and inaccurate proclamations from the scene of an incident that anthrax and/or other biological agents had been detected. This caused a great deal of public concern and was later almost universally proven untrue.
- There was no verification of competency among responders. The vendor that provided training deemed a responder competent for simply sitting in the classroom. An attendee could conceivably misunderstand major portions of the training and be expected and allowed to use the equipment the next day.

The DFS/DPH team conducted extensive research, analysis, development and experimentation to develop both procedural and educational solutions to these issues. We are very happy with the result. Though a substantially longer than anticipated period of time was needed to address all of the issues, the team is

highly confident in all aspect of the final product and upon request, is forwarding it for federal review as a model approach.

Concurrent with work at the state level, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security contracted with the Association of Analytical Chemists to develop approved test methods and validation of LFAs used for bio-threat detection in the field. The first, and so far only device to receive this certification is the device used by hazmat teams in Massachusetts. This certification established that the sensitivity and specificity were adequate and that the device performed consistently.

### **The Procedure**

The first key element of this procedure is the local fire department. The local fire department will be the initial determinant in the response of the hazmat team and will do so on the basis of its own hazard and risk analysis. Multiple guidance documents are available to aid in these decisions including the *IAFC Model Procedures for Responding to a Package with Suspicion of a Biological Threat*, available at ([http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/suspicious\\_packages.pdf](http://www.iafc.org/associations/4685/files/suspicious_packages.pdf)) and the DPH, Submitting Suspect Biological or Chemical Terrorism Related Environmental Samples available at ([http://www.mass.gov/dph/bls/bls\\_em\\_prep.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dph/bls/bls_em_prep.htm)).

Key information collected by the local fire department and law enforcement personnel will also be used by the hazmat team in conducting its determination of a suspicious versus credible event. This determination is essential in establishing how the event will be managed.

For obvious reasons, the specifics of the procedures that follow cannot be published in an open source such as the *All Hands Herald*. This information will be provided in briefings at future meetings of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts with

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## Smoke Characterization

*Continued from Page 10*

neers as they strive to develop new smoke detection technologies.”

“The initial results of this project reflect that smoke can no longer be characterized just by color or density, but that smoke is highly complex and chemically different based on each unique fire event,” said John Drenenberg, UL’s manager of Consumer Affairs. “From the sheer amount of data we’ve gathered, we believe the results will change the way the fire community perceives smoke produced in home fires, which could further reduce the risk of injury or loss of life due to fires.”

Drenenberg said the study will also help material scientists better understand how materials decompose in residential fires and may lead to the development of safer materials in the home.

The Smoke Characterization Project followed a 2004 study conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that indicated fires in modern homes smolder longer, then burn hotter and faster than what was typical when smoke alarms were first introduced.

The NIST study also concluded that because fires could grow more rap-

idly, the time needed to escape some types of fires has been reduced from approximately 17 minutes to as little as three minutes in certain situations.

“With this Smoke Characterization Project, UL and FPRF are helping move fire science to a whole new level,” said Chief Jim Harnes, president, International Association of Fire Chiefs. “Home furnishings and products constructed from new synthetic materials and formulations are growing in popularity. This project has provided the data and measurement techniques needed to more fully assess a burning material’s impact on detection.”

Fire officials agree that smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing deaths and injuries from fires—an almost 50 percent decrease in fire deaths has been attributed to smoke alarms since the mid-1970s.

Currently, about 95 percent of U.S. homes are estimated to have at least one smoke alarm, employing either photoelectric sensors, which are generally more effective for detecting smoldering fires, or ionization sensors, which are more sensitive to open flames. Smoke alarm manufacturers now make alarms that combine both technologies. Drenenberg emphasized that, regardless of the technology used, a properly installed smoke alarm system remains one of the most effective ways to protect families from the risk of residential fires.

“Underwriters Laboratories and FPRF recommend residential homes have both smoke alarm technologies installed where appropriate,” he said. “It is generally recommended that every residence have a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area, and at least one on every floor.”

Almand also suggested that owners of multi-level homes should consider interconnected smoke alarms with wired or wireless technology to provide simultaneous response in case of a fire, regardless of where the fire begins. ♦

## HazMat To Increase Capabilities

*Continued from Page 15*

advance notice. As a summary of these procedures, however, a series of decision points will establish the specific contacts (DPH, FBI, DFS) and field assessment to be made which MAY include field-testing. While field-testing MAY take place, the specific test results will not be shared under ANY circumstances for the reasons cited above in bullet #4. The collective data will be used to provide recommendations to the incident commander for short-term “tactical” measures, pending confirmatory results from the State Lab.

There is only one objective to this procedure: to provide the incident commander with quantifiable and qualifiable information upon which to support short-term tactical decisions. It is not the objective to initiate public health actions on the basis of this information.

### **So What Does This Do for You?**

Many, if not most, fire departments have been faced with suspicious packages by now. Each of these departments has been faced with the need to make decisions regarding building re-occupancy, “victim” instructions, department member concerns, etc. While the degree

of risk in these events has varied widely, hazmat teams were left with only visible indicators and an educated guess in providing recommendations as to what to do while awaiting laboratory results.

This lack of quantifiable and qualifiable information left the incident commander without a strong position when making decisions about releasing an incident or isolating a property. Either way, there would be criticism.

The ability of the hazmat team to conduct a high level assessment of risk and materials will now provide the incident commander with a greater confidence in making decisions and the knowledge that such decisions are supported by joint assessment and more thorough evaluation of threat materials while they are en route to the laboratory. The result is that there will be less risk that people will be allowed to re-occupy a truly contaminated area and less risk will exist that businesses or other institutions will be withheld from operation unnecessarily. Most importantly, the unified approach to advance bio-threat analysis will enable the fire service to provide the public with greater protection and reason for greater confidence. ♦



## Understanding Underground Fire Main Testing

The requirements for the acceptance testing of private underground fire service mains and combined fire/domestic service mains are commonly overlooked. The flushing and pressure test required and witnessed by the local water authority do not typically address the concerns or the requirements for fire protection systems.

The acceptance test requirements for underground fire service mains and combined fire/domestic service mains are specified by Section 10.10.2 in the 2002 editions of NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, and NFPA 24, *Standard for the Installation of Private Fire Service Mains and Their Appurtenances*. These requirements include flushing and pressure (hydrostatic) tests.

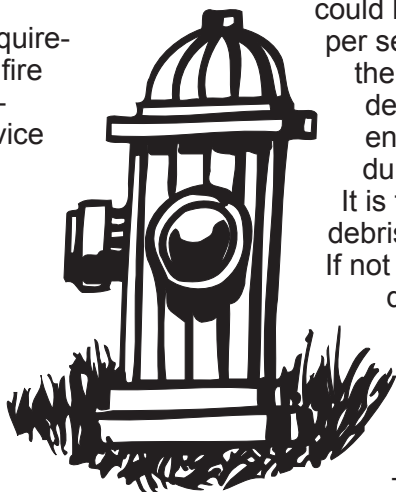
NFPA 13 and NFPA 24 require that all private fire service mains and combined fire/domestic service mains be pressure tested at a pressure of 50 psi higher than the system working pressure, but never less than 200 psi. American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards permit pressure testing at pressures as low as 150 psi. If the underground piping can hold the test pressure for two hours with no leakage, the pressure test could be considered as passed. NFPA 13 and NFPA 24 do allow for some leakage, however leakage will complicate the test procedure as the amount of leakage will need to be measured and analyzed. Generally this would be done with a pump taking suction from a calibrated tank so that the amount being fed into the system (amount being lost by the system) can be determined. The purpose of the pressure test is to ensure that all joints were properly installed.

NFPA 13 and NFPA 24 require that all private fire service mains and

combined fire/domestic service mains be flushed at significant flow rates. The NFPA standards typically require that the water be moving in the pipes at no less than ten feet per second (approximately 880 gallons per minute for 6-inch nominal pipe, 1,560 gallons per minute for 8-inch nominal pipe). The required flush rate per AWWA standards could be as low as 2.5 feet

per second. The purpose of the flushing is to remove debris that could have entered the service mains during the installation.

It is fairly common to find debris inside service piping. If not properly flushed, this debris can enter the fire protection system and obstruct water-flow significantly or entirely.



The NFPA tests for underground mains are required to be documented in a form titled *Contractor's Material and Test Certificate for Underground Piping* (Figure 10.10.1 in NFPA 13 and NFPA 24). The tests must be performed prior to the fire protection systems contractor connecting the aboveground system to the underground pipe. The fire protection system contractor installing the aboveground system needs to certify that they have proper documentation from the underground installation, or personally witness the test, according to the *Contractor's Material and Test Certificate for Aboveground Piping* and the acceptance requirements of NFPA 13 for aboveground pipe.

If it has not been properly documented that the underground service has been flushed per the more stringent NFPA requirements, the acceptance testing for aboveground systems should not be performed. Acceptance testing of backflow preventors, dry-pipe sprinkler systems, and fire pumps, in particular, can introduce obstructing and damaging debris into a system on which improper flushing has been performed. Underground

testing that has been witnessed and accepted by the water authority is unlikely to meet NFPA requirements.

How to contact an OSFM Fire Protection Engineer: if your jurisdiction contains, or is South of the Mass Pike - contact Jake Nunnemacher at 978-567-3377 or [jacob.nunnemacher@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:jacob.nunnemacher@dfs.state.ma.us). For jurisdictions North of the Mass Pike - contact Dana Haagensen at 978-567-3376 or [dana.haagensen@dfs.state.ma.us](mailto:dana.haagensen@dfs.state.ma.us). ♦

### About the Cover: Sprinklers Protect North Andover Home

When the family moved into 84 Sugarcane Lane in North Andover, they did not realize the comfortable home came with residential fire sprinklers until May 18, 2007. A wicker basket of towels was placed on the hearth in front of the fireplace in anticipation of swimming on warm days to come. But, it was a cool spring day and the gas insert stove in the fireplace kicked on, creating enough heat to eventually ignite the towels. The homeowner smelled smoke in the basement and called the fire department. Only minutes before she had been in the basement and noticed nothing awry. As the fire department prepared to extinguish the fire that had spread from the towels to nearby upholstered furniture, the heat reached the ceiling, and activated a single sprinkler head which put it out. The flame damage to the home was minimal most of the damage was from the smoke, and the home remained habitable. No one was injured. Chief Martineau said, "Sprinklers are not only for property protection but for life safety; they give residents time to escape." ♦

## MFIRS V5 Coding

It's summertime and that means barbecues and fireworks. Here are a few coding tips:

### Fireworks

If there is a fireworks explosion with no fire, code the **Incident Type as a 243 – Fireworks explosion (no fire)**.

- Any casualty under this incident type would be classified as an EMS Casualty and not a Civilian Fire Casualty.

If fireworks ignite a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is and **code Heat Source = 54 – Fireworks** in the Fire Module.

- If the fireworks ignited more fireworks, code **Item First Ignited = 88 – Pyrotechnics** in the Fire Module.
- If fireworks are stored at the site of the incident, code **On-Site Materials = 934 – Fireworks, commercially made** on the Fire Module.

### Gas Grills

If the fire is contained to the grill, code the **Incident Type as a 162 – Outside Equipment Fire**.

If the grill started a fire, code the fire as the type of fire it is.

- On the Fire Module **Equipment Involved in Ignition** should be **643 – Grill, hibachi, barbecue**.
- Select the appropriate code for **Equipment Power Source**:
  - 11 or 12 – Electrical Line Voltage;
  - 22 – LP Gas or Other Heavier Than Air Gas;
  - 42 – Coal, charcoal.

### 2006 Fire Data –Analysis

The Fire Data Unit has closed the database for calendar year 2006. The staff has started the analysis cycle of Community Profiles, County Profiles and the 2006 MFIRS Annual Report. You can still submit incidents at any time; it's just once the year

is closed any incidents submitted after that will not be included in the analysis.

If you have any incidents that you think may make a good anecdote for the 2006 county profiles or the annual report please forward your suggestions to Derryl Dion. These could be large loss, multiple casualty or unusual circumstance fires.

### Upcoming MFIRS Classes

Friday, 9/28/07 @ MFA in Stow, MA from 09:00 – 13:00. Course # 200000613 Session A. Please use standard MFA registration forms and procedures.

Wednesday, 9/19/06 @ South Hadley District #1 F.D. in South Hadley, MA from 18:30 – 21:30. Course # 200000613 Session B. Please use standard MFA registration forms and procedures.

### Need for Updated Reports

Departments need to submit updated MFIRS reports once investigators have completed their investigations. Whether the SOG's allow the fire investigator, the chief, deputy chief, or officer in command, to do this, the MFIRS report needs to be updated and then resubmitted (the next time the incident reports are submitted) when anything new is discovered or an investigation is completed. This should be done even if the fire investigators are using another system other than MFIRS for their investigative reports. This is especially true for fatal or large loss fires.

### Assistance

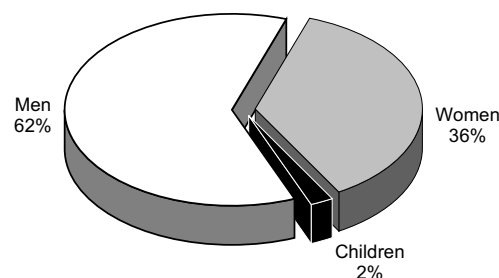
Please contact Derryl Dion, Research Analyst at (978) 567-3382 or [Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us](mailto:Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us) with any questions regarding MFIRS or to conduct fire data or histories research.

## 2006 Fire Statistics – A Sneak Peek

According to the 2006 Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) data, there were 30,198 reported fires. The 15,507 structure fires, 3,258 motor vehicle fires and 11,433 outside and other fires caused 44 civilian deaths, 386 civilian injuries, 541 fire service injuries and an estimated \$184 million in property damages. This is a 3% increase from the 29,271 fires reported to MFIRS in 2005.

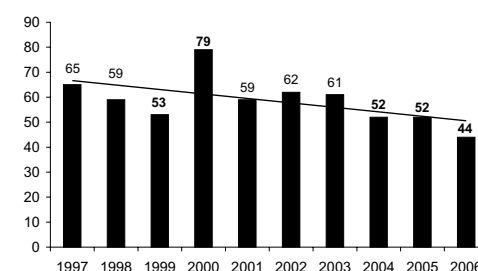
In 2006 39 fatal fires killed 44 civilians: 27 men, 16 women and one child. No firefighters died in a fire in 2006. The 44 civilian deaths is a new record low for fire deaths in Mas-

Civilian Fire Deaths



sachusetts and is a 15% decrease from the previous record low of 52

Fire Deaths by Year



civilian fire deaths in 2004 and 2005. Smoking was once again the leading cause of fatal residential structure fires and residential structure fire deaths. Smoking caused 35% of fatal residential fires and 32% of residential fire deaths.

For more information or a copy of our downloadable 2006 Fire Fact Sheet click on: [http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dfs/osfm/firedata/mfirs/facts\\_2006.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eeops/docs/dfs/osfm/firedata/mfirs/facts_2006.pdf) ♦



# PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Fire Prevention Week 2007

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has announced the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2007: "It's Fire Prevention Week – Practice Your Escape Plan."

This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week, taking place October 7 through 13, focuses on how to plan and practice escape from a home if a fire occurs. NFPA has been the sponsor for Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 80 years.

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 1.6 million fires and 24% of these were home fires. Home fires killed 3,030 people that year – roughly 8 people every day – yet only 23% of households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

It's not enough just to have a home fire escape plan in place; everyone in the home must also practice the plan. Visit FPW's official Web site ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) to learn more about how to escape a home fire.



The public is invited to practice their escape plan by participating in The Great American Fire Drill. During the

month of October, NFPA and its mascot Sparky the Fire Dog® are urging people to "Practice Your Escape Plan." Those taking part in The Great American Fire Drill can visit Sparky's Web site ([www.sparky.org/cool.html](http://www.sparky.org/cool.html)) to sign up and be counted, and find out how to download an "I Did the Drill" certificate.

It is important to be prepared to escape from a fire if one occurs, but it is equally important to prevent fires from happening in the first place. NFPA suggests taking steps to avoid fires by making sure your home and activities that take place there are as safe as possible. The leading causes of home fires are cooking, smoking, heating, electrical equipment, and intentionally set fires. Cooking leads to the most fires and injuries while fires caused by smoking leads to the most deaths. Visit the Fire Prevention Week Web site ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) for more statistics about fires and useful safety tips on how to prevent them.

NFPA has taken the lead in public fire safety outreach by serving as the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 85 years. The annual public awareness and safety commemoration, which is proclaimed by the President of the United States each year, is observed by fire departments in the U.S. and Canada to mark the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. ♦

## NFA Juvenile Firesetting Training

The Mass. Firefighting Academy will be sponsoring the National Fire Academy's Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I (JFIS I) and II (JFIS II). The goal of these courses is to provide the skills and tools necessary to become a JFIS Specialist I or II. The class will address the National Fire Protection Standard 1035. JFIS addressed primary prevention, identification and intake, who sets fire and why, as

well as interviewing and intervention strategies. JFIS II also addresses coalition building support and management, budget and funding, development of a handbook, resource directory, database, and program evaluations. The JFIS I class will be held November 1-2, 2007 and the JFIS II class will be held December 4-5, 2007; both classes will take place at the Berlin Fire Department, just off Rt. 495. ♦



## Firefighters Visit the Library During FPW

By FF Richard Boudreau,  
Leominster S.A.F.E. Program  
Coordinator

Since 1999, in conjunction with the Leominster Library, the Leominster Fire Department has been kicking off Fire Prevention Week at the Leominster Public Library. This event usually targets the pre-school age children.

Two firefighters spend about two hours with the children. During this event, a library volunteer reads a book selected by the library staff that usually is about firefighters like *Clifford The Red Dog Goes to the Fire Station*. A firefighter talks about fire safety issues, highlighting home exit drills, two ways out, smoke alarms, and firefighters are your friends. One of the firefighters shows his turnout gear and explains each piece as he puts it on. The children are invited to try on a fire coat. Approaching the end of this segment, Sparky the Fire Dog® makes his appearance. The firefighters explain how to "Stop, Drop & Roll" Sparky demonstrates and encourages all the children to practice it with him. The local newspapers are always happy to cover this event. The library does all the advertising. The success of this event is apparent throughout the year, as parents are always asking the date of this year's event. ♦

# 2007 Remembering When™: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults Conference



## Remembering When™

a fire and fall prevention program for older adults

The NFPA's Center for High-Risk Outreach is accepting proposals by August 30, 2007 from 40 local teams for a scholarship to attend the Remembering When Conference in Boston next December. For more information or application forms, check online at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or call the NFPA's Center for High-Risk Outreach at 617-984-7286

NFPA's Center for High-Risk Outreach is committed to helping communities reduce fire and fall injuries and deaths among older adults. The Remembering When program has been implemented in communities throughout North America since 1999, reaching thousands of older adults.

To ensure that the Remembering When program is reaching the most vulnerable of older adults, NFPA will select up to 40 communities to attend the first Remembering When Conference, which emphasizes reaching older adults through home visits. For this purpose, we are ask-

ing fire departments to partner with an agency whose main outreach to older adults is through visits to the home. Such agencies may include: visiting nurse, home health care associations, church outreach groups, and other organizations.

NOTE: DFS has provided a free copy of *Remembering When* to every fire department. For more information or to make sure you have picked yours up, contact the Public Education Unit 978-567-3380. ♦

## DFS/Brandon Hold Juvenile Firesetting Conference

**O**n May 11, 2007, over 200 professionals and agencies from across Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and New York met to learn more about the juvenile firesetting issue and to collaborate on how to address it. *The Northeast Juvenile Firesetting Conference: Pathways to Collaboration & Intervention* was jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Association of Safety and Fire Educators (MA SAFE) and the Brandon School of Natick, MA.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, speaking during the luncheon said, "One of the impediments to creating a statewide program for juvenile firesetting is that no single agency can address the problem on its own, and no single agency has had the resources to provide the necessary leadership." He added, "We need to bring all the stakeholders together", to develop a multi-agency approach."

Dr. Robert Kinscherff, J.D., Ph.D., Assistant Commissioner of the MA Department of Mental Health opened the conference with a summary of the development of treatment models over the past 20 years

and an update on the current best practices in a talk entitled "*Child and Adolescent Firesetting: What We Know Now*".

During the luncheon, now former Commissioner, of the MA Department of Social Services Lewis H. Spence, spoke about the need for collaboration in addressing this problem. He noted that, with proper treatment, the recidivism rate for juvenile firesetters is very low.

This inaugural conference provided a unique opportunity for mental health, fire services, burn care, schools, social service and juvenile justice professionals to receive the most up-to-date information and best practice models for multi-disciplinary collaboration in responding to problem firesetting behavior. Attendees spent the day hearing from keynote speakers, participating in workshops that focused on various aspects of this national public safety issue which affects all communities and sharing ideas with their peers about ways to address juvenile firesetting. ♦

## Fire & Life Safety Education Conference

**September 26-27, 2007**

The 13th annual Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Education Conference will be held September 26-27, 2007 at the Mansfield Holiday Inn. The conference will have two days of workshops – new ideas and old favorites. On September 27, the keynote speaker will be Tim Vandenbrink, Assistant Fire Marshal in the Edmonton, Alberta Fire Department. He is a highly entertaining speaker who has spoken on fire and life safety education across Canada and the United States. Using humour, he challenges his audience to reflect on their own attitudes towards life safety.

The 2007 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award will be presented at the conference on September 26. For registration information send an e-mail with the word 'conference' in the subject line to or look online soon at or call (978) 567-3380. ♦





# LICENSING EXAMS

## Licenses

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by calling (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm).

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton. ♦

## 2007 Exam Schedule

Examination	Deadline Date	Examination Date
Special Effects Blasting	August 6	August 15
	November 5	November 15
Fire Extinguishers	July 16	July 25
	October 22	October 31

## Status Report of Compliance and Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with de-

cisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding the status of any license or certificate, please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

## Compliance and Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Name	Action Taken	Terms	Ends
<b>Explosives User's Certificate</b>			
National Technical Systems	2 yr. Suspension	1 yr. to serve, 1 yr. probation	2/7/2009
<b>Blasting Certificate of Competency</b>			
Mark F. Siders	Written warning 1/5/2007		
Christopher R. Decot	Written warning 1/6/2007		
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency</b>			
James Tecce	Permanent Revocation	Prohibited from ever again holding a business reg. of any kind from DFS	
David M. O'Neill	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve, retest, 4 yrs. probation	5/23/2008 5/12/2012
<b>Fire Equipment Certificate of Registration</b>			
Intra-City Supply Co.	5-year suspension	1 yr. to serve, 4 yrs. probation	5/23/2008 5/12/2012



**S**tate Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Director of Emergency Response and Homeland Security Kevin Partridge presented certificates of completion to members of the *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training* class #15 in a graduation ceremony at 7:30 p.m. on April 4, 2007. The recruit graduation took place at the Littleton High School, Littleton, MA.



Call/Vol. Class 15 Photo by: Sue Peltier

The *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training* program is unique in that it delivers a standard recruit training curriculum, meeting national standards, on nights and weekends to accommodate the schedule of firefighters in suburban and rural areas. Bringing the training closer to the firefighters often means more firefighters can participate. The thirty-one graduates, twenty-nine men and two women, represent the nine fire departments of: Berlin, Harvard, Holden, Littleton, Lunenburg, Rutland, Sterling, Wayland and West Boylston.



Call/Vol. Class 16 Photo by: Sue Peltier

On April 24, 2007 certificates of completion were presented to members of the *Call/Volunteer Firefighter Training* class #16. The recruit graduation took place at the Dartmouth High School, Dartmouth, MA.

The thirty graduates, twenty-nine men and one woman, represent the eleven fire departments of: Acushnet Fire – Rescue, Berkley Fire & Rescue, Dartmouth District 1, Dartmouth District 3, Marion, Mattapoisett, Plainville, Rehoboth, Swansea, Wareham, and Whitman Fire – Rescue. ♦

## Recruit Class 175 & 176

**S**tate Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Director of Emergency Response and Homeland Security Kevin Partridge announced the graduation of the 175th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty day Recruit Firefighting Program on March 30, 2007.

### **Sullivan of Melrose Fire**

FF Neil Sullivan of Melrose, graduate of recruit Class #131, was invited as a special guest. FF Sullivan suffered a significant injury fighting a 3-alarm fire in August 2005 that led to the amputation of a leg. His story and positive attitude were inspirational.



Class 175

The seventy graduates, five women and 65 men, represent the 37 fire departments of: Agawam, Bourne, Bridgewater, Canton, Chelsea, Dracut, Everett, Framingham, Franklin, Gardner, Gloucester, Halifax, Holden, Lancaster, Lynn, Malden, Marblehead, Marlborough, Marshfield, Melrose, Methuen, Middleborough, Natick, Newburyport, Norfolk, Northampton, Norwell, Plainville, Plymouth, Salem, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Wakefield, Ware, Westfield, Weston, and Yarmouth.

Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Farrell, of the Danvers Fire Department, addressed the recruits. He was the incident commander at the November 22, 2006 explosion in a Danvers chemical company.

### **Special Guest Neil**

### **Recruit Class 176**

Class #176 graduated the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's sixty day Recruit Firefighting Program on June 22, 2007.

The 70 graduates, four women and 66 men, represent the 45 fire departments of: Auburn, Avon, Burlington, Charlton, Chelmsford, Clinton, Duxbury, East Longmeadow, Fitchburg, Gardner, Gloucester, Holden, Kingston, Lexington, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Lynn, Malden, Marblehead, Marshfield, Medfield, Medford, Methuen, Middleborough, Needham, Northampton, Northborough, Oxford, Plymouth, Raynham, Rockland, Scituate, Seekonk, Shrewsbury, Somerville, Swampscott, Walpole, Ware, Wayland, Westminster, Weston, Winchester, Winthrop, Woburn and



Class 176